



# LIBRARY COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

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## LIBRARY FRIENDS TO THE RESCUE!

Thursday, March 9, proved to be "D" Day for the Library Commission. The Director had been faced with sharp reduction of operating funds due to the drying up of federal support from the Library Services and Construction Act. Each

Library Region and Service Center in West Virginia was asked to supply a library patron who could testify to the value of public libraries. Sixteen friends came to the rescue.

The accounts of how library books enhanced their lives ranged from that of a bookmobile borrower who moved from the city and studied dairy farming with an assist from books, to readers in isolated areas such as Helvetia and Iaeger. Frederic J. Glazer, the Commission's Director, explained that the Commission needed about \$750,000 additional to keep going at its present level of activities. Of that sum, about \$348,000 is needed for grants-in-aid to counties and cities; \$22,000, for services to the blind and handicapped; and \$38,000, for programs at state institutions. \$208,740 was needed to complete salary payments.

The original budget request sought \$2,100,000 for first funding of a \$14 million five year plan for establishing library facilities in all unserved areas. Hearings in the morning at the Senate overflowed the Senate Finance Hearing Room. Alan Susman, Acting Chairman of the Committee, moved the Friends to the Senate Chambers, for a stronger presentation. A rerun was staged in the House Finance Committee that same afternoon.

When the final budget decision was announced on April eleventh, the Library Commission grant showed a \$757,000 replacement for lost funding for operating costs plus \$1,250,000 for Library Construction from Special Revenue Accounts. Special appreciation is owed to the following library friends: Mrs. W. F. Ritchie, Ravenswood; Mrs. Clarence Pierson, Clay; Mrs. Gertrude Platnick, Bluefield; Mrs. William H. Postlewait, Clarksburg; Sid Allen, Huntington, of the West Virginia Federation of the Blind; Mrs. James Cook, Man; George H. Campbell, Weirton; Larry Frye and Professor William Young of Bethany College; Mrs. Harry Reese, Keyser; Mrs. Paul Loflin, Beckley; Mr. Earl Eschbach, Iaeger; Reverend James Halsted, Kopperston; Mrs. Joan Black, New Martinsville.

SMALL LIBRARY  
MANAGEMENT  
INSTITUTE

Pipestem

May 9 - 10



In photo above, Luella Dye, hostess, introduces entertainment features. Seated are Mrs. Priscilla Gotsick, Frances Jones, and Jerry Flanagan.

The ceremony below is honoring Mrs. Lucile McNary (extreme right). Mrs. Adena Sherrill and Clarence Coffindaffer are in the center of the picture.



Dr. Gilbert Dempsey  
welcomes  
Participants to  
Princeton Area.



PIPESTEM  
MEETING

A registration of eighty-two participants at the State Resort proved that parks serve as a drawing card for Institutes. Forty small libraries were represented. A genuine concern was demonstrated state-wide for the needs of the public library serving population units of less than 10,000 persons. The Institute skirted the serious issues of funding and trusteeship, but dwelt on the details of what a librarian can do with imagination, volunteers, and canny management.

Mrs. Luella Dye, director of the new Mercer County Library Service Center, co-hosted the Institute with Jerry Flanagan, librarian of Princeton Public Library. The introductory meeting had an attendance of sixty-five in the Princeton Public Library with emphasis on the value of paperbacks, both for reference and circulation. June Martin, of the Kanawha County Library, indicated approaches for guiding the patron to use interlibrary loan and to unusual reference services. Karen Goff, Headquarters Librarian at the Library Commission told of the many bibliographic sources available in her Kanawha City location (3624 MacCorkle Avenue, S. E., Charleston, West Virginia 25304).

"Adult educators and public librarians need to find a common meeting ground," reported Priscilla Gotsick, lead speaker for the dinner session of the Institute. Mrs. Gotsick is on the staff of Morehead University. She has carried on an effective liason with Western Counties Region where librarians are visiting adult basic education classes telling of the value of the public library. The dinner also featured appearance of two trustees, Dr. Gilbert Dempsey, acting chairman of Princeton Public Library and Director of the Forest Products Marketing Laboratory in Princeton, and Mrs. Scott Shott, a Bluefield trustee. Music from Eric Dye's dulcimer and a performance by Mercer Folk and Scottish Dance Group enlivened the evening.

The morning programs on Thursday staged simultaneous conferences on Children's Services from Wilma Brown and Helen Lind of Kanawha County Public Library. They represent Puppeteers of America. Mr. Glazer led a discussion for supervisors with emphasis on the new State Library Card. Judith Prosser, Director of Technical Services, introduced a new Cataloging Manual for the small librarian, and Frances Jones provided samples of new forms for recording statistics. Both of the latter items are still available -- so contact Mrs. Eleanor Hudson, Registrar of the Institute, at 2004 Quarrier if you desire samples.

Comments on the Institute:

"I'm in favor of such a relatively unstructured meeting or conference. I hope we will have more workshop and district meetings and the state parks make an ideal setting." Elliott Horton.

"Good conference. No weak spots. Informative, educational, and every minute enjoyable. Would go anywhere to a conference like this one has been. Film strips, delightful!" Clay County.

"All very informative. Some sessions much too short."

"Loved the slide show. Enjoyed everything. Felt it was valuable. Picked up lots of pointers." Anita Doss.

REVENUE  
SHARING  
REQUESTS  
\$1,335,940

On the strength of the reported requests made by more than forty local libraries for an appropriation from Revenue Sharing funds, the performance would earn an "A" rating. On the actual record of grants definitely made, \$473,500 have been made.

These total figures represent five year promises, or a little less than a third of the amounts requested.

Twenty-one libraries have received grants or definite assurances. Dave Childers, Staff Accountant, thanks all participants for responding so promptly to the Library Commission's Information Request. Our interpretations may not be exact, but the following tally may be of state-wide interest: Hancock County (\$12,000), Northern Hancock (\$1,000), Grantsville (\$5,804), Jackson County (\$16,000), Hamlin (\$10,000), Keyser (\$2,000), Webster (\$10,000), Wyoming County (\$5,000), Mullens (\$1,500), Rainelle (\$10,000), Monongalia (\$30,000), Grafton (\$2,500), Terra Alta (\$1,000) Martinsburg (\$7,080), Shepherdstown (\$1,000), Parkersburg (\$25,000), Bluefield (\$12,500).

Both Cabell County and Raleigh County have been successful in securing five year commitments toward capital programs with Huntington assured of \$75,000 this year and Beckley \$30,000. Seventeen county courts have made library grants, and only five cities.

Revenue Sharing is proving invaluable to pry loose capital projects which had been languishing, or they have made possible instant libraries in communities such as Rainelle and Blacksville, South Parkersburg and Webster Springs, which heretofore lacked any library facility. But it has not yet proved the equivalent of grants made by HEW from Washington directly.

NLW  
A  
CONTINUING  
SUCCESS

Too often, national promotions tend to level off when repeated as an annual event. If newsprint is a measure of success, the state's libraries rated high this year with more than 100 special announcements appearing in daily newspapers.

Since the Library Commission does not receive complete distribution from weekly publications, there were possibly several clips we missed.

N.L.W.'s co-"chairpersons", Judy Rule and Janet Callahan, deserve our thanks for asking Dr. Patrick Gainer, founder of the Glenville Folk Festival and editor of "Folk Songs of the Allegheny Mountains", to serve as honorary chairman. Dr. Gainer's life exemplifies the task of lively libraries, namely, a record of devotion to preserving our cultural heritage. In 1972, Dr. Gainer retired as Professor Emeritus of English at West Virginia University. A native of Parkersburg, he grew up on a farm in Gilmer County and became intrigued with collecting West Virginiaiana while serving on the faculty of St. Louis University.

Noteworthy cooperative ventures in which different species of librarians joined hands to talk about their craft were Greenbrier County's panel discussion before the Lewisburg Woman's Club, including Board President, Mrs. Oliver Hagerman, Mrs. J. H. Darnell from the public library, and two school librarians, John Perry of Greenbrier East and Margaret Greene of Lewisburg Junior High. School Librarians of Raleigh County held a joint

dinner honoring their school principals, and an Open Dinner was sponsored in Parkersburg by all the librarians of Wood County.

Art and Craft shows were employed as a tool to attract new patrons with Stonewall Jackson Regional at Buckhannon sponsoring a multi-media show from Glenville State College. Berkeley Springs Woman's Club hosted a tea in the Morgan County Library displaying local crafts and unveiling a cartoon mural in the children's alcove painted by the Teen Age Friends of the Library. Taylor County Senior Citizens displayed cotton ball bunnies and other crafts at the Grafton facility.

An excellent half page feature was garnered by Marion County in The West Virginian published at Fairmont. The most comic display of reading as a togetherness activity was titled "Three in a Tub", the award at the East Dale School for good readers of the day.

EIGHT  
CONSTRUCTION  
GRANTS  
AWARDED

At its May second meeting, the Library Commission made a record number of new grants to complete the use of this year's funds and obligate those promised during the next fiscal year.

Of three large projects, Raleigh County received the major award with \$500,000 from state funds to assist with a \$1,250,000 building to be built in Beckley across from the Post Office on Kanawha Avenue. The Coal City anticipates creating about a 30,000 square foot structure. Pleasants County Library at St. Marys received assurance that \$100,000 would be made available to match with \$25,000 of Revenue Sharing money from the County Court. Putnam County Library, without any room to grow in crowded rented quarters in Hurricane, received assurance of a grant of \$150,000 toward developing a \$300,000 structure in the Heck's shopping complex at Winfield.

Four instant shell buildings were ordered for the following locations: Wayne County Library to be located in Fort Gay; Rainelle Library Board for location in Rainelle; Hancock County Library Board for a library at Chester; and Morgantown Public Library for a library in Blacksville.

A special remodeling grant has been made to the Boone-Madison Library Board for remodeling the old Boone Bank in Madison in the amount of \$30,000.

TO ATTRACT  
CHILDREN

Suggestions from Betsy Eaton, the Field Librarian who works with Instant Libraries: Order Display Posters. Full color poster Guessing Game (15" x 24") by Bill Peet, Children's Book Dept., Houghton Mifflin, 2 Park Street, Boston, MA 02107. Once Upon a Time: the Fairy Tale World of Arthur Rackham, School and Library Dept., Viking Press, 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022. (Enclose 16¢ postage and 9 x 12 envelope.) Self-addressed mailing label.

OUTSTANDING  
GIFTS

\$25,000 for a New Bookmobile by the Benedum Foundation to Ohio County Library in Wheeling.  
\$500 for purchase of books in Kanawha County Library in memory of Wilma Brown by Children's Theater of Charleston. The McClintic House in Marlinton to Pocahontas County Library by Miss Elizabeth McClintic of Washington, D. C.

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